

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 05261 141905Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /056 W

-----150428Z 075917 /75

R 141958Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1524

ALL USCONS MEXICO BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 05261

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SP, PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: EX-PRESIDENT DIAZ ORDAZ IS NEW GOM AMBASSADOR
TO SPAIN

1. THE RENEWAL OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN GOM AND GOS FOLLOWING NEARLY 40-YEAR HIATUS PROMPTED SPECULATION OF POSSIBLE AMBASSADORIAL CANDIDATES INCLUDING EX-PRESIDENT MIGUEL ALEMAN AND MARIO MOYA PALENCIA, FORMER MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND LEADING LOSING CANDIDATE FOR THE PRI PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION AGAINST LOPEZ PORTILLO. THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON APRIL 4 THAT FORMER PRESIDENT GUSTAVO DIAZ ORDAZ HAD BEEN NAMED CAME AS A SURPRISE TO LOCAL OBSERVERS. DIAZ ORDAZ, WHO WAS IN POWER FROM 1964-70 AND ENJOYED A PERIOD OF WARM RELATIONS WITH THE US, HAS SINCE HIS DEPARTURE FROM OFFICE BEEN ENTIRELY OUT OF THE PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT IN MEXICO, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF ECHEVERRIA'S DISFAVOR FOR HIM. SINCE GUSTAVO DIAZ ORDAZ WAS VIRTUALLY OSTRACIZED DURING THE ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION, THE NOMINATION OF GUSTAVO DIAZ ORDAZ SEEMS TO BE A MOVE DESIGNED BY GOM PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO TO DEMONSTRATE HIS INDEPENDENCE FROM ECHEVERRIA. THE SELECTION OF DIAZ ORDAZ AS AMBASSADOR WAS MET WITH SPECIAL DISSATISFACTION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 05261 141905Z

BY MEXICAN LIBERAL ELEMENTS, AND IN FACT, PROVOKED THE RESIGNATION OF CARLOS FUENTES, AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, WHO SAID HE COULD NOT ACCEPT DIAZ ORDAZ AS A COLLEAGUE IN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. DIAZ ORDAZ CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE FONOFF TO ANSWER HIS CRITICS.

2. DURING THE ONE-HOUR, NO-HOLDS-BARRED, QUESTION-AND-

ANSWER SESSION, DIAZ ORDAZ NOTED THAT HE HAD ONLY VISITED SPAIN ONCE IN HIS LIFE AND THAT HE HAS ABSOLUTELY NO FINANCIAL INTERESTS THERE. HE WAS NOT ABLE TO GIVE A DEFINITE DATE FOR HIS ARRIVAL IN SPAIN AND ADDED THAT HIS NEW POSITION IS A SACRIFICE FOR HIM, WHICH HE HAS ACCEPTED BECAUSE THE CURRENT PRESIDENT PERSONALLY REQUESTED THIS OF HIM. DIAZ ORDAZ PROFESSED IGNORANCE CONCERNING FUENTES RESIGNATION (FYI, FUENTES, IN 1968 RESIGNED A FONOFF POSITION OUT OF PROTEST TO DIAZ ORDAZ' HANDLING OF THE FAMOUS TLALTELOLCO STUDENT "MASSACRE" PRIOR TO THE OLYMPIC GAMES) BUT DEFENDED AT LENGTH HIS OWN ACTIONS REGARDING THE SUPPRESSION OF THE 68 STUDENT MOVEMENT. DIAZ ORDAZ ADDED THAT HE HAS REMAINED SILENT FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS OUT OF RESPECT TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT SUCCEEDED HIM AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT ALL PRESIDENTS (I.E., ESPECIALLY ECHEVERRIA) MAINTAIN THAT SAME RELATIONSHIP TO THEIR SUCCESSORS.

3. DIAZ ORDAZ WAS BORN IN THE STATE OF PUEBLA IN MARCH 1911. HE RECEIVED HIS LAW DEGREE IN 1937 AND WAS A CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR, AS WELL AS MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, PRIOR TO BECOMING PRESIDENT IN 1964. THE MOST INFAMOUS EVENT OF HIS REGIME WAS THE TLALTELOLCO DEMONSTRATION IN WHICH HE CALMED A STUDENT UPRISING AT THE COST OF MANY LIVES, BOTH STUDENT AND SOLDIER. GUSTAVO DIAZ ORDAZ READS ENGLISH, ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT SPEAK IT WELL. HE WAS WIDOWED A FEW YEARS AGO AND HAS THREE GROWN CHILDREN. THOMPSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO05261
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770130-1103
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770458/aaaabxua.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 743d23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2807606
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EX-PRESIDENT DIAZ ORDAZ IS NEW GOM AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, SP, MX, (DIAZ ORDAZ, GUSTAVO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/743d23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009